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Washington, DC 20515-6035

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ROBERT L. SIMMONS, II, STAFF DIRECTOR

February 15, 2013

The Honorable C.W. Bill Young  
Chairman  
Defense Appropriations Subcommittee  
H-405 The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairman Young:

We write today regarding the pending action associated with the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2013. On February 13, 2013, our committee received testimony as to the debilitating impact that sequestration and a year long Continuing Resolution would have on the readiness of the Department of Defense. The witnesses, including all of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, expressed their grave concern about the short term impact associated with the Department of Defense's current readiness. General Dempsey indicated that "We need help from our elected leaders to avoid hollowing out the force and compromising our Nation's security."

We believe the most effective means of minimizing these significant reductions would be to pass the Department of Defense Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013. Absent this, we would recommend that specific anomalies and transfer authorities be included in a year long Continuing Resolution Act to reduce the harmful impacts of a Continuing Resolution based on Fiscal Year 2012 appropriations. Specifically, we would recommend the following be incorporated:

- Specific transfer authority to allow Navy to realign funds toward the full funding of the modernization and maintenance programs of the Navy fleet.
- Rate increase associated with the Nuclear Aircraft Carrier (CVN) Refueling Overhaul (CVN-72 RCOH)
- Sufficient appropriations to support the completion of prior year programs for LHA-6 and CVN-71 RCOH
- Multiyear procurement and quantity increases associated with DDG-51 and Virginia Class
- New start authority associated with the Carrier Replacement Program (CVN-79)
- Rate increase to support the Moored Training Ship and the DDG-1000
- Quantity increase to support the P-8A Poseidon
- Additional appropriations to support the expanded research and development of the USAF Aerial Refueling Aircraft

We believe that it is incumbent to maintain the existing Navy fleet at readiness levels that will provide sufficient funds to support the entire service life of the navy assets. We hope that such transfer authority would provide the Navy adequate latitude to continue ship availabilities that are temporarily on

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hold in the third and fourth quarters of fiscal Year 2013. We also believe that it is incumbent for the Navy to retain a focus on future readiness and also believe the above anomalies will provide this needed relief.

We appreciate your leadership during this tumultuous year and thank you for your consideration of our request. As always, do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



J. RANDY FORBES  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Seapower  
and Projection Forces



ROBERT WITTMAN  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Readiness

JRF:ds

Cc: Ranking Member Peter Visclosky